

# The Baptist Record

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## State Baptist convention to elect new president

The Mississippi Baptist Convention, annual business meeting for Southern Baptists in Mississippi, will take place Nov. 14-16, at First Church, Jackson.

The convention's business will include election of a new president, consideration of a \$16,485,000 Cooperative Program budget for 1984, and reports from all the agencies operated by the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Featured speakers for this year's convention include John L. Sullivan,

pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, La., and first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Roy Honeycutt, president Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Grady Cothen, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board; and Frank Schwall Jr., vice president and director of retirement guidance for the Annuity Board.

Other major messages will include the MBC president's address, this year by James Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, who is completing his second term as president, a traditional limit on the top office, and the annual sermon will be by Charles Myers, who recently retired as pastor of Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

This year's "Bible Treasure" messages, a series of devotional thoughts usually delivered by one person throughout the convention, will be by Helen Jean Parks, wife of Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist

Foreign Mission Board.

Each session of the convention will feature a testimony of what Christ is doing in the lives of the speakers. These ten-minute testimonies will be offered by Keith Cating, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Mississippi; Robert Upchurch, a member of Calvary Church, Tupelo; Wayne Burks, a state senator and pastor of Bolton Church; Chester W. Griffin Jr., of First Church, Columbus, wing commander at Columbus Air Force Base; Mrs. Rebecca Williams, of First Church, Gautier; and George Lee, director of Missions for Marion, Lawrence, and Waltham Counties.

Mose Dangerfield, director of the Church Training Department, will lead a series of talks about "Developing Believers," and Lynn May, director of the SBC Historical Commission, will lead in a special presentation of a commemorative plaque to First Church, Winona, in honor of Arthur

Flake, a former staffer there who developed principles of Sunday School growth used by Southern Baptists today.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will lead the Monday evening session, which traditionally deals with the work of the convention board staff.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention will convene at 1:20 on Monday afternoon on Nov. 14. It concludes at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 16. This shortened schedule, an experiment in earlier years, was continued to allow most messengers time to return to their home churches for Wednesday evening services. Messengers must be elected by their churches prior to the convention.

Joe McKeever is chairman of the order of business committee which determines the tentative program for the convention.

## Clarksdale school request denied again

The United States Supreme Court has denied the latest request by Clarksdale Baptist Church to grant a stay of execution of a federal district court order to Internal Revenue Service to begin investigation of church-related schools in Mississippi to determine if racial discrimination exists according to IRS guidelines.

Federal District Judge George Hart of the District of Columbia has ordered the IRS to proceed with such an investigation; but the Clarksdale Church, which operates Clarksdale Baptist School and is the only church to be allowed to intervene in the case, has appealed the judge's order to the circuit court of appeals in the District of Columbia.

The church twice has requested a stay of execution of the order pending the outcome of the appeal. Both requests have been denied.

"The ball is in the IRS court," said Pastor Don Dunavant. "The tax agency is now free to renew its investigation not only of the Clarksdale school but also of all church-related schools in Mississippi," Dunavant added.

"I have no idea what the time frame will be," he noted.

Only church schools in Mississippi are affected as a result of the court order; for the suit that brought about the order, filed by a Mississippian, mentioned only Mississippi schools. If the suit is finally settled to allow such investigations, however, Dunavant pointed out, then all church-related schools in the nation would be subject to such investigations.

A congressional decision that barred the IRS from using federal money to finance the investigations expired this year. By reason of the court suit the IRS was freed to pursue investigations in Mississippi. Congress could again establish such a restriction and make it apply to Mississippi also, Dunavant had said earlier.

## Christmas a folk festival?

## Nativity dispute tops list of new church-state actions

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)—In a week highlighted by legal arguments over a Christmas nativity scene, the U.S. Supreme Court also declined to hear several church-state cases as it returned to the bench for the 1983-84 term.

Grabbing the lion's share of media attention was the nativity case, pitting the city of Pawtucket, R.I., against the American Civil Liberties Union. The issue: whether city taxes may be used for the erection of an outdoor display depicting the birth of Jesus.

For its part, the city contended in oral arguments before the high court that the nativity scene is but a minor part of a larger secular celebration. Christmas in America, the argument went, is "a national folk festival" and "a vast conglomeration of folk customs and symbols, feasting and fraternizing, music, literature, and art. The religious origins in the holiday have evolved into a secular humanism."

Pawtucket's nativity scene is part of a larger display that includes a talking wishing well, a miniature New England village, a Santa's house with a live Santa Claus, a spray of reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh, and assorted cutout figures depicting other non-religious figures associated with the Christmas season.

Attorneys for a group of Pawtucket taxpayers who sued the city over the nativity scene argued that two lower federal courts were correct in striking down the practice as a violation of the separation of church and state.

They argued Pawtucket's purchase and display of the nativity scene violates the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion by placing the imprimatur of the state on one set of religious beliefs and by showing preference for one religion over all others.

Because the justices chose to hear the case on the second day of the new term, observers are speculating their decision may be rendered before the coming Christmas season (821256, Lynch v. Donnelly).

In other actions, the high court refused to schedule for argument several other cases involving church-state questions.

The court decided not to review a First Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that a Rhode Island law providing both public and private school students with free bus transportation outside their local school system improperly entangled state with church in violation of the establishment clause (83-158, Members of Jamestown School Committee v. Schmidt).

In another parochial busing case, the justices likewise turned aside an

appeal from South Bend, Ind. parents who sought transportation for their children to sectarian schools at taxpayers' expense. The case was decided earlier on procedural rather than substantive grounds (82-1713, Frame v. South Bend Community School Corp.).

The justices also declined to disturb a ruling by the Tenth Circuit Court upholding federal and Utah laws exempting religious educational institutions in their hiring practices. The case arose when a Mormon business college refused to renew the teaching contract of a Mormon teacher who was judged to have insufficient involvement in church activities (83-92, Larsen v. Kirkham).

In a pair of church zoning cases, the justices also let stand lower court rulings that upheld a Honolulu, Hawaii, ordinance banning more than five unrelated persons' living on church premises and a Lakewood, Ohio, ban on the construction of a church building in virtually all of the city's residential districts. The Honolulu action was brought by members of the Hare Krishna sect, while a group of Jehovah's Witnesses challenged the Lakewood ban (82-2070, International Society for Krishna Consciousness v. Marsland); (821769, Lakewood, Ohio (Continued on page 4)

## REACH UP AND REACH OUT



Through the Cooperative Program CP

## Baptist identity explored

By Dan Martin

WASHINGTON (BQ)—The "twin wings" of tradition and conscience in Baptist life were examined, affirmed, and authenticated during a two-day workshop on Baptist identity.

The conference, sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, took a long look at Baptist heritage, from the first Baptist dissenters in Seventeenth Century England to today and affirmed the basic principles of soul liberty, conversion, religious liberty, and separation of church and state.

Along the way, participants looked at their own individual heritages; studied ethical and legal implications; and pondered tradition and conscience in their personal, local, national, and international ramifications.

A Harvard theologian spoke of conversion and the tension which should exist between church and society, a law expert reviewed recent Supreme Court decisions impacting religious liberty, and an ethicist talked of soul liberty and the differing opinions today.

Personal odyssey

Two historians traced Baptist history—one from Anabaptist antecedents and the other from the Puritans—and a nationally known television newsmen shared this personal odyssey.

Bill Moyers, award winning broadcast journalist with CBS News, quoted a statement "that tradition and conscience are the twin wings given to the human soul to reach for the truth," as he told of his experiences growing up in Marshall, Tex., attending Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, serving in the Senate and White House with Lyndon B. Johnson, and now as a nationally known commentator.

Moyers spoke of gratitude for Baptist influences of history and on his own life, citing a litany of things he learned in a Baptist church: democracy, equality of individuals, inviolability of the conscience, learning to listen, commitment, and caring.

"But religion also is a record of schisms, heresies, lunacies, hypocrisies, compromises, crime, controversies, division, and ignorance. I also learned about all of these things in a Baptist church," he said, adding the "ugly things that happened in my Baptist church actually kindled my faith in democratic possibilities."

Harvard theologian, Harvey Cox, spoke of conversion and said the Baptist emphasis on personal conversion "somehow makes us different from the world." Encapsulated in that notion, he said, "is a very sophisticated view of human nature and human history."

"If we can be born again, we can change; and if we can change, then human nature is not determined," he said, disputing the contention of international politicians, psychiatrists, and others that things are preordained.

Cox claimed conversion, "... experience of God through Jesus Christ, arises from a tension with regnant values of the world," noting when the distinctives between Christians and the world begin to blur, the tension slips away, and conversion lessens in importance. "In other words, when we are at ease in Zion, then conversion is (Continued on page 3)

## Creatures interrupt service, but women still want baptism

TSUMEB, South West Africa—Carlos Owens had just begun baptizing a line of 20 new Christians when the ladies at the end of the line halted the service with their jumping and screaming.

The women weren't trying to disrupt the service. Leech-like creatures were biting their legs. But the women felt they had waited a long time to be baptized and they weren't about to let the creatures stop them. They motioned to Owens to continue.

For two years, Baptist pastor Edmund Kandume and Southern Baptist missionary Charles Whitson had visited the remote refugee camp near the Angolan border of South West Africa to witness and teach. But distance limited their visits.

At last, Southern Baptist missionaries Owens and his wife, Myrtice, arrived to work in the northern region of the country. There they found that the Angolan refugees had built "a lovely building of pole and cornstalk walls, thick grass roof, pole seats and an attractive bamboo reed pulpit," says Mrs. Owens.

After a speedy baptism service, the 20 new Christians left the pool singing. Neither leeches nor the guerrilla wars in South West Africa and Angola had hindered this new Baptist church.

## Home Mission Board disciplines Lowder

By Craig Bird

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)—Jim Lowder, the pastor of Delores Street Baptist Church in San Francisco, has been reprimanded by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Lowder, his wife, Rose Ann, and nine other members of Delores Street were arrested June 20 during a nuclear protest outside the Livermore Research Laboratory.

Their protest gained national coverage when the 11 gave their individual names as "Southern Baptist Convention" after they were among more than 1,000 protesters who were arrested and charged with obstructing traffic.

The Lowders are jointly appointed by the Home Mission Board and the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

The reprimand did not become public knowledge until a budget fight erupted in the September meeting of the California convention's executive committee. Herb Hollinger, editor of the California Southern Baptist, reported the meeting in the Sept. 22 issue.

Board member Richard Neely, pastor of Alameda Baptist Church, moved that the budget line item of \$12,276 for salary assistance for Delores Street be deleted. Neely said he was upset Lowder was receiving help from the California convention.

Robert D. Hughes, executive director-treasurer of the California convention, said he was likewise "appalled by the use of the name Southern Baptist Convention," in the protest but noted most of the salary funding was from the HMB. He also assured the board he had held discussions with the HMB and "disciplinary action has been taken."

Ralph Longshore, director of the missions division of the California convention, added, "they have been reprimanded and if it (their actions)

continues, he (Lowder) will be dismissed."

After being cautioned not to remove the line item because, if Lowder were replaced the funding would not be available for a new pastor either, the board voted overwhelmingly against the proposal to delete the funds.

Paul Adkins, director of the Christian social ministries department of the Home Mission Board, confirmed Oct. 3 the Lowders had been reprimanded but declined to comment since it was a personnel matter.

HMB administrators said in August they had received some negative response calling for the Lowders' resignation. The spokesmen also stressed the Lowders' actions in no way represented the position of the HMB on the nuclear issue since the Board has taken no position.

Lowder told Baptist Press "I have complete freedom to continue our peacemaking activities, though there could be some problems (with the HMB) if they included civil disobedience again."

Lowder is planning to attend a peacemaking conference in Oakland the day prior to the meeting of the Southern Baptists General Convention of California, Nov. 14-17.

He is also holding a monthly worship service outside the gate of the Livermore laboratory and he was the only Southern Baptist pastor to sign a recent letter to Alan Cranston, urging the California senator to introduce legislation to delay or halt the deployment of missiles in Western Europe.

Lowder said he and his wife, "feel good about the response to our protest—even the negative reaction," because it has helped focus attention on the issues of nuclear war. Opinion over the nuclear protest is divided, he said, even within his own church.

(Bird is Baptist Press feature editor.)

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## Protestants criticize Senate on Vatican vote

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)—Protestant and evangelical church leaders assailed as unnecessary and discriminatory a move in Congress to authorize funds to establish official U.S. diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

The U.S. Senate unexpectedly approved a measure Sept. 22 to fund a diplomatic mission to the Vatican, overturning a ban imposed in 1867. Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., proposed the amendment to the State Department authorization bill to set aside the ban.

Before an exchange of ambassadors takes place, however, Senate and House conferees must agree to the measure, both houses of Congress must agree to the conference report, and President Reagan must sign it. After these actions, the actual appropriation of funds would have to clear Congress and be signed by the president.

Lugar's move was supported by 20 co-sponsors in the Senate, including Southern Baptists Jesse Helms, R-N.C., and J. Bennett Johnston, D-La.

At an Oct. 5 press conference, spokesmen for five Protestant and evangelical organizations voiced alarm the Senate vote was by unanimous consent and no hearings had been held.

Speaking for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, whose executive committee on Oct. 3 reaffirmed the agency's longstanding opposition to diplomatic recognition of the Vatican, executive director James M. Dunn said "any attempt to show preferential treatment to one particular church or religious body" violates separation of church and state.

Dunn also cited a statement by Southern Baptist Convention president James T. Draper Jr. that he was "appalled" at the Senate action.

Asked by a reporter about Helms' and Johnston's support of the measure, Dunn said, "I think they were just wrong."

Besides Dunn, others condemning the vote were Forrest Montgomery, legal counsel of the Office of Public Affairs of the National Association of (Continued on page 4)



# Editorials

## The score can be changed

by don mcgregor

We have had a number of telephone calls and visits inquiring as to what we were going to do in answer to a column in the Jackson Clarion-Ledger of Oct. 1, written by columnist Joe Rogers, concerning the situation of the Jackson nurse who was pictured in the nude in Playboy magazine.

The column was titled "Booze and Sex, 3; Baptists, 0." Neither the Baptist Record nor its editor is going to stoop to answering it.

In a way, the column was complimentary to Baptists. It held Baptists up for ridicule; and if those who would want to remove restraints on questionable conduct and alcohol consumption feel threatened enough by the Baptist presence that they feel they must resort to ridicule, then so be it.

It is a compliment to the Baptist witness that it has been pervasive enough that those with whose lifestyles it is in conflict would give it such recognition.

The indication from newspaper stories has been that the nurse is

employed at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. We must remember that in such a facility it is not necessary, or possible, that all employees be Baptist or even Christian. In fact, we would more than likely run into trouble with the federal government if we tried to insist on such restrictions.

What should the administration do about it? By the time this is read, the decision probably will have been made. The administration has made no statement concerning its intention; but in the Baptist scheme of things, it is a decision for the hospital's administration and trustees to make. We all surely have our thoughts as to what would be proper, but only they will make the decision.

The booze part of the score concerned the Jackson decision to extend the drinking hours in the city from midnight to 1 a.m. The implication was that Baptists lost that one, too. But that is not entirely correct. Everybody lost. The party-goer who has an extra hour in which to imbibe and thus loses his

ability to get back home certainly has lost. And the poor, innocent, unsuspecting motorist who is late returning from a trip and is the one drunk hits has lost. And society as a whole has lost because another step has been taken in giving in to alcohol.

One step at a time, alcohol is winning alright. Alcohol referendums of one sort or another are possible in several counties this fall. Let those citizens be aware that the propaganda used by the alcohol industry is only half the truth and in some instances it is lies altogether. In every case it will be an effort to take one more step toward the ultimate goal of unrestricted flow of alcohol.

That is not a worthy goal and in many instances is not even desired by those who feel compelled to use alcohol because of employment situations.

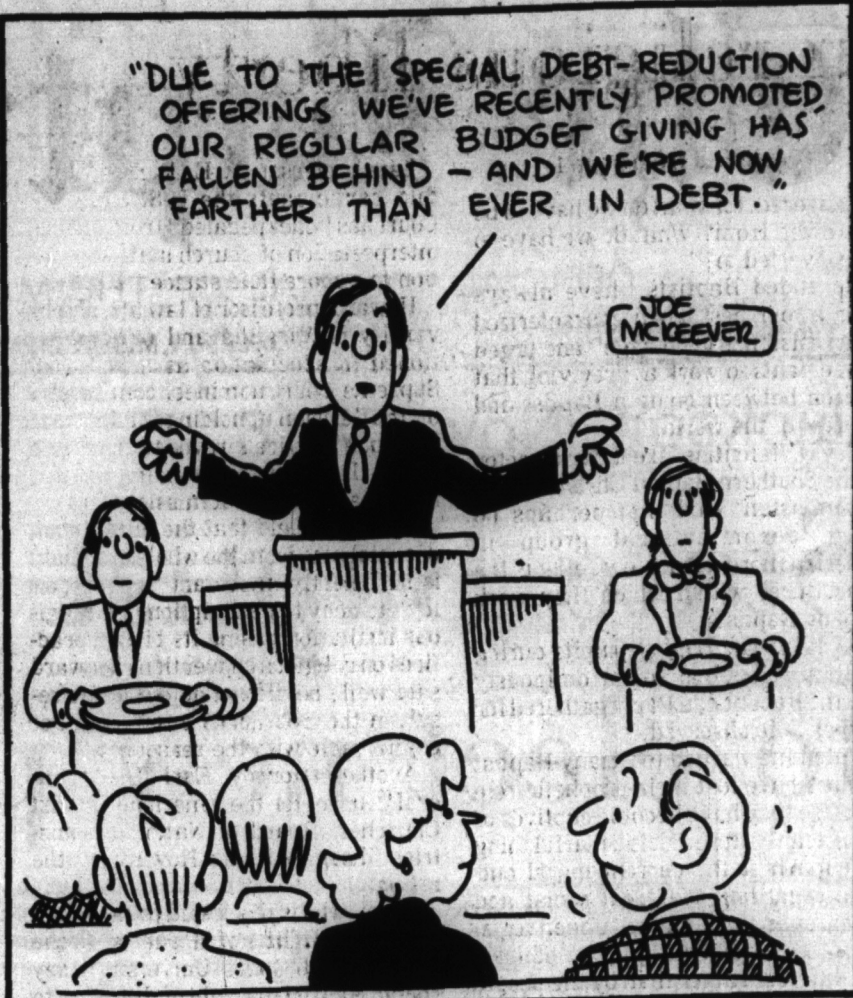
The best thing is to stop it in its tracks and even back it up.

This publication will be making an effort to get more information on the county referendums as quickly as it

can be obtained and published. It was of interest, however, that the Rankin County referendum was mentioned in a Page 1 story in the Jackson Clarion-Ledger for Oct. 10. It was a story announcing the fact of the referendum and presenting quotes from both sides. On Page 3 of the same issue was a story headlined, "Federal money inducing states to get tough on drunken driving." The story pointed out that each year 25,000 Americans are killed by drunken drivers, and destruction caused by those drivers amounts to \$24 billion.

This is what will not be told by those seeking to get alcohol restrictions lifted in county referendums.

Mississippi, by the way, was listed as one of 18 states that have initiated a crack down on drunken driving. Let's all be a part of this momentum and do something about it. The place to get involved is in the voting booth for sure. Any other effort to help keep alcohol bottled up, literally, would be worthwhile.



## Letters to the Editor

## Compensation for social security tax

This is the time for giving thought to church budgets, and the compensation for staff members is a major part of each one of them. For 1984 an ominous new note has been injected into the compensation picture, and it must be reckoned with.

The new note is the dramatic and drastic jump in the social security tax for self-employed persons, and ordained ministers fit into that category. As was noted in the Baptist Record of Sept. 8, the social security tax for the self-employed for 1984 will jump from

a previously established 9.35 percent to 14 percent under a new law passed this year. A tax break will lower that figure to 11.3 percent, but it will continue to go up until it reaches 15.3 percent in 1990 with no tax break.

Budget committees need to be aware of this and take steps to compensate for it. The self-employed has always had to pay one and a half times the social security tax of the employee, but this new structure will mean the self-employed will eventually pay

twice the employee amount. This becomes a sizeable consideration.

In September the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee took steps to try to deal with the situation for the ordained members of its staff. The committee authorized a salary allowance for the ordained equal to the amount the ordained must pay over that which the employee must pay. The compensation will be subject to social security and income taxes. Church budget committee could well

consider such an adjustment in their ministers' salaries.

The whole thing could be handled simply by making the minister an employee of the church; but Darold Morgan, president of the SBC Annuity Board, cautions that such a step could spell more trouble than it would be worth with the federal government on down the line.

The compensation seems to be the best solution to keep the minister from facing a serious income loss.

### Thankful for convictions

Editor:

I appreciate your cartoon this week in regard to deliberately deceptive advertising of beer, wine, and liquor. The ads never show a pretty girl in an evening dress that has been torn because some drunk stepped on it. Nor do they show hungry children staring at their drunken parents. They certainly never picture anyone sitting in a wheelchair as a result of a wreck caused by a drunken driver.

I think MADD is a great organization, but I think they will get better results when they ask every member of their organization to cancel their subscriptions to magazines that carry liquor ads. We also need to write to the T.V. networks, putting pressure on them to allow advertisers other than beer companies for ball games. I am sure there are companies standing in line to advertise ball games if they only had the opportunity.

When I was a little girl, my mother cancelled her subscription to "Cosmopolitan" magazine because of its liquor ads. My parents stand against liquor. I am still a teetotaler at the age of 55. I am thankful for Christian parents who had the courage of their convictions.

Carolyn Jones  
Greenwood

among ourselves, there is a world of unsaved people going to hell.

If we do not stop "shooting our own troops" (and, to be fair, Baptists are not the only ones "shooting") the only result will be demonic laughter echoing through the halls of hell.

James Bush  
Ocean Springs

The title of the editorial was "Support for Baptist schools," and the tragedy mentioned was related to concerns that when Baptist support for their denominational schools begins to lag behind needs or when those schools find other sizeable means of support the schools sometimes either are caused to search beyond Baptist resources to the point of electing non-Baptist trustees and administrators or come to the point of not needing a strong tie to Baptists and therefore might move away to some extent. Further investigation of this situation, however, has uncovered the interesting fact that Thomas Hearn, the new president of Wake Forest University, has announced publicly his intention of joining a Southern Baptist church in Winston-Salem, the site of the school. He's a former Southern Baptist. It was a mistaken interpretation to feel that the word "tragic" related specifically to the election of Hearn as Wake Forest president.—Editor.

### Pressure to conform

Editor:

In answer to Mrs. Malcolm Webb, (Sept. 8 issue) another subject that is not mentioned is sin.

From a piece that appeared in the American Medical News and was copied in part by a well known writer in the daily paper, "about 25 percent of all fourth grade children in the United States are pressured by their friends to try drugs and alcohol."

"By the time children reach the seventh grade, 60 percent say they feel pressure to try liquor and 50 percent say they feel pressure to try marijuana."

A hundred thousand children were measured nationwide.

I am glad that every Baptist in Mississippi gets your paper.

Elizabeth Camp  
Meridian

### Support for Baptist schools

Editor:

This letter is in response to your editorial of Sept. 15 in which you declared "tragic" the appointment of a Presbyterian to be president of Wake Forest.

"Tragic" does not describe the appointment of a brother in Christ to this post. "Tragic" would describe the appointment of an atheist, the appointment of a member of a cult, or the appointment of a man of any denomination who professed to be a Christian but who did not know the Lord as his personal Savior.

"Tragic" does describe the Russian destruction of Afghanistan; the continued murder of unborn babies in most countries, including our own; and the fact that while we quibble

## Guest opinion

## Employees of nonprofit organizations required to pay social security taxes

By Roy Caves

Employees of nonprofit organizations will be required to pay social security taxes starting Jan. 1, 1984. The nonprofit organization will also be required to pay a matching amount just as is currently being done by all other employers. Prior to the recent law change, participation by employees of nonprofit organizations was optional by electing out of the Social Security System. It is not required that an election be made to be covered by Social Security as of next January. In the past, many ministers have elected not to be covered by Social Security. That part of the law was not changed, and ministers may still elect not to be covered.

Nonprofit employees (age 55 or older) affected by mandatory social security coverage will be deemed to be fully insured for social security benefits after acquiring the necessary number of quarters. The required number of quarters for a person at age 60 or over is six; age 59 is eight; age 58 is 12; age 57 is sixteen; and age 55 or 56 is 20.

Forms 941, which are now being filed, will continue to be filed including all employees of the exempt organizations. If returns are not currently being filed, then these will be due. The

returns are required to be filed on or before the last day of the month following the quarter involved; except that an extension of time for filing is automatically granted to the 10th day of the second month following the close of the calendar quarter if the return is accompanied by depositary receipts showing timely deposits in full payment of taxes due for the period.

Generally, an employer must deposit the income tax withheld and the FICA taxes with an authorized commercial bank depository or a Federal Reserve Bank or branch.

Employers with \$500 or more liability at the end of the month but less than

\$3,000 at the end of any eight-monthly period (eight-monthly periods end on the 3rd, 7th, 11th, 15th, 19th, 23rd, 27th, and the last day of the month) must deposit the accumulated liability by the 15th of the following month. If the employer has less than \$500 liability at the end of the quarter, no deposit is required. If, at the end of any eight-monthly period, the employer's liability is \$3,000 or more, the accumulated liability must be deposited within three banking days after the close of the eight-monthly period.

Roy Caves is on the staff of the Internal Revenue Service district office in Jackson.

## Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

### Dayspring

Between the columns of the dining hall porch at Ridgecrest, I could see Mt. Kitasuma. Once, I remembered, I climbed that North Carolina mountain before daybreak, to watch the sunrise.

For breakfast, Pat Green and I entered "the fresh fruit line"—and what a choice! peaches, strawberries, bananas, apples, blueberries, canteloupe, grapes. . . . The array of special-interest conferences for Dayspring was just as varied. It was hard to choose only four—when one could hear Minette Drumwright, Marjorie Kelly, Martha Franks, Evelyn Blount, Helen Jean Parks, Stuart Calvert, Lewis Myers Jr., John Cheyne, Sue Tatum, to begin to list—(on spiritual growth, how to witness, spiritual awakening, witnessing through ministry.)

I picked Evelyn Christenson (prayer in the life of a Christian woman); Nell

Magee (witnessing to internationals); Ruth Miller (time management); and Avery Willis (MasterLife).

Miller said, "You can't change anyone's habits but your own, but if you are well-organized and happy, at peace about the way you spend your own time, your attitude will rub off on your family."

Said Christenson: "Spiritual renewal is always born in prevailing prayer. . . . What is revival? An outpouring of God's Spirit, in his time, in his way." She said that everywhere she goes she sees outcroppings of the revival spirit, and believes that God is beginning to bring about a spiritual renewal in America. She asked, "Why do we pray so much more often for sick Christians, who when they die will go to be with Jesus, than we do for those who are lost and in danger of dying without him?"

Nell Magee said we need to get to know internationals—and there are many in America—we need to spend time with them, social time—not just talk about religion all the time, but let them see Christ in us. "It is very important to be sensitive to their customs, culture, and feelings."

Avery Willis I will write about next week.

"Rubies," an extraordinary musical by Cynthia Clawson, Ragan Courtney, Raymond Brown, and Buryl Red; premiered on Friday evening—taking its title from Proverbs 10:31.

Marge Caldwell, author, marriage counselor, and charm teacher, brought the closing meditations; Jeanette Clift George, actress, led the Bible studies, and, in a stirring dramatic presentation, portrayed Stephen's wife; Bill O'Brien, executive vice president, Foreign Mission Board and Dorothy Sample, president of WMU, SBC, delivered keynote addresses.

Mrs. Sample called for a commitment to witnessing and asked those who would accept her challenge to write a letter to God—then and there—telling

him of that commitment.

As I mentioned last week, I traveled to Ridgecrest Sept. 30 with a busload of 20 women from my church (Morrison Heights). Memory snatches: Jannis Gilstrap sharing a cake she had baked; Jo Jones handing out Cokes; Nan Robbins standing in the bus aisle, wrapped in a blanket and eating a sucker; all of us sitting on the floor in Holly Hall near midnight, singing "Happy Birthday" to Pat Roberts; stopping by to say hello to Maggie Patterson, 90 (Marjean's mother) in Atlanta; goldenrods among the garbage cans in a McDonald's parking lot; Jeanette Clift George saying that the gentle Jesus sought out the woman at the well (John 4) and took time to talk with her. He sat down at the well, and shared his thoughts with her. Jeanette said, "Real witnessing is an overflow. Living water springs up from within and spills over."

I asked for reactions of the women who traveled with me. "Ellen Rowett," said one (singer, gospel artist/lecturer in residence at Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.) "really impressed me, not only as she led the music, and as she sang, but in her whole personality, which so clearly reveals her close relationship to the Lord." Others were impressed with "the sweet spirit of 2,800 women singing, 'Make Me a Blessing,' and 'Singing praises to the Lord,' and with 'the Christian love and fellowship we shared as we listened, learned, and worshipped together.'"

"Dayspring was to me what rain is to a dry and parched land—" declared one woman, "refreshing, cleansing, renewing." And another: "It was a place where 2,800 women took their vessels to be filled, and they were filled to overflowing."

Some remembered particular quotations: "Crisis can be a blessing instead of a blur when you submit to God's will. God will give you a ministry in your hurt if you will let him."

"God is available to me as I allow him to be. Constant availability produces productivity. Instant obedience produces joy." "A Christian is one who by God's grace has been given the freedom to witness. God only uses prepared vessels."

From the lovely 83-year-old retired missionary to China, Martha Franks, came these words: "Often we put ourselves on the throne in our hearts, and put God on the cross. But we should place God on the throne, and ourselves on the cross." "When we are born again, God cleanses us of our sins and gives us a birthday gift, the Holy Spirit."

Sally Baker summed up the weekend in this way: "It was an adventure I will always treasure, a time of personal spiritual renewal and fantastic fellowship with Christian women. What impressed me most was a trait I saw in the women. The leaders, as well as the listeners, seemed so willing to accept change. They could admit that they needed to change their views in some areas and through the leadership of the Holy Spirit they were ready to accept those changes and to grow spiritually."

### Defense goes to pot

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (EP)—A husband and wife who claim marijuana is a sacrament in their church were convicted Sept. 20 of numerous counts of marijuana trafficking and possession with intent to distribute. A Hampden Superior Court jury deliberated about three hours before returning the verdicts against David Nissenbaum and his wife, Christine, both 35. Sentencing was scheduled later.

The Monson couple maintain that marijuana is "the body and blood of Christ" and that they smoked it "every waking hour" as part of the worship in their church, the Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church.

## Conference explores layperson's potential

HARRISBURG, Pa.—The National Renewal Evangelism Conference will explore the potential of one of Southern Baptists' greatest resources—the layperson—when it meets Oct. 25-27 at the Americana Host Inn in Harrisburg, Pa.

Featured speakers at the three-day event include Robert Hamblin, Owen Cooper, Anthony Campolo, Dorothy Sample, and Ken Lyle.

The theme of the conference, sponsored by the Evangelism Support Department of the Home Mission Board, is "Partners in Ministry and Evangelism."

Hamblin, vice president, evangelism, Home Mission Board, will share his theory of laity involvement, the first time he has done so since assuming his present position in August, 1982. Hamblin is former pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

Cooper, of Yazoo City, the only living non-ordained former Southern Baptist Convention president, will speak on the ministry of the non-ordained. Cooper is an outspoken advocate of the necessity of equipping laypersons to evangelize the world.

A professor of sociology at Eastern College, St. Davids, Pa., Campolo, a Baptist minister, will challenge laypersons to develop and activate a radical theology in the marketplace.

Samples, the holder of five earned degrees, including two doctorates, resigned two salaried positions as a psychologist and educator to devote her full time to the presidency of the

WMU. She will address the topic, "Partners in Ministry."

Delivering a series on the ministry of the laity, Ken Lyle, director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland, will share his view that every Christian is a minister.

The meeting will also focus on current issues of the day facing the layperson and his Christian response, including such issues as war and peace, would hunger, family responsibilities, economic systems, and urban challenges.

For more information and to register for the conference, contact Reid Hardin, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St. N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367.

### Only church wins 12

CUREPIPE, Mauritius—Twelve people made public decisions to become Christians and six made other decisions during four days of special services at Curepipe Baptist Church, the only Baptist church on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius. Bud Fray, associate to the area director for Eastern and Southern Africa for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, preached for the services. Missionaries Norman and Jean Wood and volunteer Ella Mae Baker, along with members of the 2-year-old church, distributed gospel tracts and invitations before the services. Mauritius has about 1 million people.

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# Baptist identity explored in religious liberty conference

(Continued from page 1)

endangered, for what do we have to be converted from? What do we have to be converted to?"

He added Baptists "have always been at our best when characterized by a resistance to outrage" and urged participants to work at "reviving that tension between a Baptist and the rest of the world."

Foy D. Valentine, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said that perhaps no other denominational group in America more accurately reflects the subcultures within which they work than do Baptists.

"A lot of our Baptist pulpits during political elections sound ominously like the Republican Party gathered for prayer," he observed.

Valentine warned too many Baptist pastors have lost their prophetic role because they have become captives of American culture. "It is a fearful thing that much of the current moral outrage regarding the great social and moral evils of our day have been registered by journalists, jurists, editors, and lawyers rather than by the people of God in general and Baptists in particular," he said.

## Win Arn to speak on growth

Win Arn, founder and executive director of the Institute for American Church Growth, will speak to Mississippi Baptists on Sunday School growth in Jackson, Oct. 28-29.

The "Sunday School Growth—New Vision" workshop will take place at First Church, Jackson, beginning at 1 a.m., Friday, Oct. 28, and will conclude the next day at 11:30 a.m.

Sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, the workshop will offer information on applying the principles of church growth to the problems and opportunities of the Sunday School, according to Keith Wilkinson, Sunday School Department director.

A registration fee of \$12 includes a notebook of Sunday School growth materials and a reserved seat at the banquet Friday night. Participation is on a pre-registration basis. To register, write: Sunday School Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.



## Campers on Mission

The National Campers on Mission organization has accepted an invitation from the Mississippi chapter to hold the 1985 meeting in Mississippi. Mae Price, Mississippi COM secretary, reported that the liaison office at the Home Mission Board in Atlanta has confirmed that the national organization will come. Tentatively, the group will meet in June at the fairgrounds in Kosciusko which will accommodate 300 hookups and many more tents. Campers on Mission is an organization which helps Christian campers get together for fellowship, witness training, and ministry.

Officers, pictured above, of the Mississippi COM are, from left, Bob Leavell and Lonnie Knight, chaplains; John Mattox, president; Mae Price, secretary; Herbert Hughes, vice president; and Golden Mason, chaplain. The Mississippi group has formed a committee to write a constitution and bylaws.

## Preaching techniques are subject of conference

Preaching techniques will be a feature of the Mississippi Baptist Preaching Conference, Dec. 5-6 at Broadmoor Church, Jackson.

Workgroups will discuss "Principles of Sermon Preparation," "Preaching to Strengthen Families," and "Preaching to Win and Motivate."

James Barry, consultant in the Church Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will lead the

Law professor A. E. Dick Howard told participants the U.S. Supreme Court has "backpedaled" from a strict interpretation of church-state separation to a more fluid stance.

Howard, professor of law at the University of Virginia and often mentioned in speculation as a potential Supreme Court nominee, commented on the decision upholding the Internal Revenue Service's revocation of Bob Jones University's tax-exempt status for racial bias in its admissions policy.

The court held that the elimination of racial bias from the whole of society is sufficiently important "public policy" to deny tax exemption to a religious institution basing its biased practices on religious convictions. Howard said while he did not object to the result in the Bob Jones case, "I'm not comfortable with the reasoning."

Another attorney, Earl Trent, general counsel for the American Baptist Churches' Board of National Ministries, disagreed with Howard on the ruling.

Trent, who is black, said even though Baptists might not agree with the stand of Bob Jones University, they should support the right of the group to dissent and object when court rulings trample on their right to be true to their own belief.

W. R. Estep Jr., professor at Southwestern Seminary, said for Baptists "freedom is inherent within the gospel itself. Therefore, the demand for freedom is not assumed for a stance of religious indifference or neutrality, but from a concern for authentic Christianity, for which a freedom to pro-

## Practicum to prevent city ministry dropouts

By Marv Knox

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — A new course on urban evangelism lured seminary students from their quiet campus and dropped them in the bustling heart of inner-city Chicago for 11 days this summer.

The purpose of the urban evangelism practicum was "to expose students to the problems and complexities of our major large cities and to confront them with those challenges first-hand," said Philip Roberts, assistant professor of evangelism at Southern Seminary here.

The course was sponsored jointly by Southern Seminary, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB), and the Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association. It was developed by Roberts and Dale Cross, HMB director of metropolitan evangelism strategy.

claim the gospel and the freedom either to accept or reject that witness without fear of legal reprisals are the essential ingredients."

Some Baptists, he said "have had difficulty balancing the divine compulsion to share the Good News" and "the rejection of all forms of coercion in seeking a positive response."

In response to a question, Estep said proposals to restore state-sponsored prayer in the public schools were "utterly against" the Baptist idea for religious liberty and raise more problems "than chiggers in a blackberry patch."

Stephen Brachlow, associate professor of church history at North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, S.D., said early Baptists were a "powerless, persecuted people" who issued "eloquent pleas for unrestricted religious freedom."

"If we are to be true to our heritage, we need continually to rediscover a deep sense of compassion and a solidarity with the powerless, persecuted people of this world," Brachlow said. There is, however, he said "a subtle temptation to move away from identification with the powerless once we find ourselves in a position of prominence, once we are in league with the powerful."

"As a majority religious movement in America today, I pray that we will not lose sight of that particular identity which is ours to preserve," he added.

(Martin is Baptist Press news editor.)



## Day of Prayer planning

Planning for the annual Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer in Jones County is under way. The date for the day of prayer is Nov. 7. In Jones County, however, the day will be observed Nov. 6 (Sunday). Standing are, left to right, Alma Barnes, co-chairman of the steering committee in Jones County, and Jane Winn, Baptist Women director for the Jones County Baptist Association Women's Missionary Union. Seated, left to right, are Marjorie Williams, Millie Reed; and Dell Scoper, who is chairman of the steering committee. The Jones County Day of Prayer will be held at 2:30 p.m. at St. Elmo Baptist Church in Laurel. This will be first time for the program to be in a black church in Mississippi. The observance is being co-sponsored by the Jones County Association WMU and the National Baptist women of the area. Mrs. Earl Kelly, wife of the executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the speaker. Attendance is not limited to Jones Association or to WMU members, Mrs. Scoper said.

## capsules

### "Army" evangelism

LONDON (EP)—The Salvation Army, under the command of General Earl Wahlstrom, has designated 1984 as the "Year of Outreach Evangelism." The theme of the evangelistic outreach is "Christ—Hope of the World."

The international headquarters is encouraging Army corps worldwide to use open-air meetings, home visitation, person-to-person contacts, radio, television, Christian literature, and Bible distribution.

### Citizen's arrest

SAN FRANCISCO (EP)—Richard Rife, a self-styled evangelist, spent his lunch hours preaching to the public that liberated women are sinners who should repent.

Mary Golden wanted him to see the error of his ways, so she arrested him. "I wouldn't do anything to interfere with this guy's right to preach on the streets, but he's gone beyond that by nearly accosting people," said Ms. Golden, 39, who made her citizen's arrest at the suggestion of police.

Mr. Rife faced trial October 4 on a charge of disturbing the peace, the offense upon which Ms. Golden, a Quaker and a paralegal in the city attorney's office, based her arrest. She said he humiliated her by following her and shouting, "Women are whores!" four times in a two-week period in May. A municipal court judge told him to quit singling out people for derogatory statements.

### Mantey will

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has received \$90,000 from the estate of New Testament scholar Julius R. Mantey who died two years ago.

Mantey was a 1931 Ph.D. graduate of Southern. He retired in 1960 from the faculty of Northern Theological Seminary in Chicago, Ill.

### Baylor enrollment

WACO, Texas (BP)—A record 10,818 students are attending Baylor University this fall, according to the Baylor office of the registrar.

The enrollment figure includes the total University system with academic programs in Waco, Dallas and San Antonio.

### First nurses graduate

BANGALORE, India—The first six graduates of the practical nursing program at Bangalore Baptist Hospital will now be able to double their family's income, according to Gail Hill, missionary director of nursing. Each student came from a large family whose income is less than \$40 per month. Hunger relief donations financed the program. The six, who are fluent in English and Kannada, will help alleviate the nursing shortage at the hospital. Besides practical nursing instruction, they also received training in spiritual ministry to patients, including follow up work in a nearby village. All had Christian backgrounds except one Hindu. During the training period one nurse made her initial commitment to Christ as savior.

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## State Baptist women plan prayer day

The annual observance of the Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer for 1983 will be Nov. 7.

"Forming a multilingual circle of prayer, Baptist women from every continent will lift up the needs of the world. For the world-embracing chain of Baptist sisters, this day offers a time of worship and fellowship in their local churches," said Ashley McCaleb, Baptist Women consultant for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

"We are Family—We Are One" is the theme for this year's observance, Mrs. Caleb noted.

Program material written by Mrs. Martin Foster of the Baptist Union of South Africa will be printed in the November issue of *Royal Service* magazine. Other free resources may be obtained from June Totten, Women's Department, Baptist World Alliance, 1628 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.

## Postage stays same for now

WASHINGTON (BP)—Congress has voted enough funding to preserve current nonprofit postal rates until it passes the regular appropriations bill for the Department of Treasury and Postal Service or until Nov. 10, whichever comes first.

The interim funding for the postal service was included in a stopgap funding measure Congress passed Sept. 30 to keep most government agencies running at the start of the new fiscal year. The stopgap measure was necessary because Congress had passed only four of the 13 regular appropriations bills for fiscal 1984.

It is uncertain at what level Congress will fund nonprofit postal subsidy for the remainder of the fiscal year. In previous action, the Senate Appropriation Committee agreed to a figure of \$802 million, enough to mean only a one step increase in nonprofit rates. The Senate panel estimated a one-stop hike would boost most nonprofit rates 4 to 12 percent.

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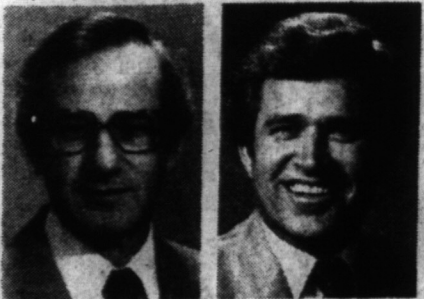
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Barry

Robinson

sermon preparation workgroup. Lavonn Brown, pastor of First Church, Norman, Okla., will lead the strengthening families workgroup. And Darrell Robinson, a Mississippi native, and pastor of Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala., will lead the winning and motivating workgroup.

Each of the three men will also lead seminars on their assigned topics during the program.

Also, Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will lead a session entitled "The Centrality of Preaching." And hosting the conference will be Leon Emery, director of the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the MCB, which sponsors the event with the Evangelism Department.

The Baptist Book Store will provide an exhibit during sessions.

To attend, registration is required at a cost of \$10 per person. Write Leon Emery, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

People who know their weight around are apt to rock the boat.

The biggest trouble with some "finished speakers" is that they don't finish soon enough.

A lot of people never get out of the woods because they won't pull in their horns.



# Agency financial requests \$20 million past projection

By Craig Bird  
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Bold Mission Thrust has sent the aspirations of Southern Baptist Convention agencies soaring—and budget requests have sailed right along behind. Initial 1984-85 budget requests from the national SBC agencies to the SBC Executive Committee totaled \$138,949,629, a stark contrast to the income projections for an operating budget of \$118 million.

"Bold Mission Thrust has created wonderful opportunities—and major problems," R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, said in making his presentation. But his logic applied to all the programs.

The effort of the SBC to present the message of Jesus Christ to everyone in

the world by the year 2000 has produced record numbers of mission volunteers, seminary enrollments, and innovative programs using satellites, film production, new training techniques, and massive outpourings of literature. All with start-up costs and increased funding needs.

As a result the 20 SBC agencies which received Cooperative Program funding asked for more than \$24 million increase from the 1983-84 budget—20.91 percent.

The two mission boards accounted \$15 million of the increase as would be expected from the two agencies most directly affected by Bold Mission Thrust as well as the major recipients of Cooperative Program funds.

The Foreign Mission Board asked for \$67,400,000 (an increase of 10.6 million—8.53 percent) and the Home Mission Board \$27 million (up \$4,365,700, 19.3 percent).

The other requests included: The Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary, \$250,650 (up \$22,800, 10.01 percent); the Annuity Board, \$1,068,000 (up \$150,000, 16.3 percent); Baptist World Alliance, \$441,000 (up \$115,000, 26 percent);

Brotherhood Commission, \$976,235 (up \$127,335, 15 percent); Christian Life Commission, \$903,750 (up \$191,875, 27 percent); Education Commission, \$487,370 (up \$63,570, 15 percent); Golden Gate Seminary, \$3,006,010 (up \$693,694, 30 percent); Historical Commission, \$603,360 (up \$209,760, 53.29 percent);

Midwestern Seminary, \$2,402,651 (up \$400,442, 20 percent); New Orleans

Seminary, \$4,915,534 (up \$948,194, 23.9 percent); Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, \$464,000 (up \$63,750, 15.69 percent); Radio and Television Commission, \$6,554,096 (up \$1,740,746, 36.17 percent); SBC operating budget (includes Executive Committee operating budget as well as budget for planning and holding annual meetings), \$2,316,000 (up \$680,700, 41.63 percent);

Southeastern Seminary, \$4,523,756 (up \$815,961, 22.01 percent); Southern Baptist Foundation, \$282,472 (up \$28,135, 11.6 percent); Southern Seminary, \$6,114,863 (up \$1,073,948, 21 percent); Southwestern Seminary, \$8,204,882 (up \$1,630,457, 24.8 percent); Stewardship Commission, \$475,000 (up \$78,850, 19.9 percent).

The Sunday School Board and the Woman's Missionary Union do not receive any Cooperative Program money but generate their own revenues by the sale of literature.

The 1984-85 budget parameters approved by the Executive Committee include the \$118 million basic budget (a three percent increase over 1983-84 operating budget), a capital needs budget of \$6,874,000 and a challenge budget of \$7,159,615—for a total of \$130 million.

Executive Committee chairman Dewey Presley, Dallas layman, warned the members of the budget committee to bring "lots of clothes when you come to your meeting in January—it may take a long time to put this budget together."

(Bird is feature editor of Baptist Press.)

## Evangelists, pastors won't merge now

By Patti Stephenson  
ATLANTA (BP)—Members of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists will not disband and merge with the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in 1984.

Rick Scarborough, president of the 300-member evangelists' association, reported the group will "continue to maintain its own identity," reversing a decision to dissolve made during its meeting at the Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh last June.

The action was taken in a mail ballot of CSBE members.

The evangelists also voted to continue their Wednesday afternoon preaching session at the annual SBC meeting, rather than suspend it as agreed at the last convention, Scarborough said.

In a letter to conference members, Scarborough said the groups chronic financial problems and the resulting strife among members prompted the decision to merge with the Pastors' Conference. At the SBC, he had expressed his opinion that the afternoon preaching session "has outlived its usefulness."

The change-of-heart was influenced by the appeals of "several prominent pastors, including SBC President James T. Draper Jr., that we not disband," Scarborough said. He reported Draper urged the evangelists to "continue to meet the spiritual needs of SBC messengers by sponsoring the Wednesday afternoon preaching session."

Scarborough added the "evidence of God's blessing as seen in the overflow crowds and the souls won at our annual banquet in Pittsburgh" spurred the conference's officers to meet and vote unanimously to ask members to "reconsider a hasty decision."

After canvassing members by mail and receiving only one objection to keeping the conference intact, conference officers have begun plans for activities at the 1984 SBC meeting in Kansas City, Scarborough reported.

"We're planning a breakfast business meeting and our preaching conference will end by 5 p.m. in order to allow messengers to return for the SBC evening session," he said. "Due to the expense, we will not hold the evening banquet, which cost us about \$9,000 last year."

A major consideration affecting the about-face vote was a decision by the Home Mission Board to take over printing and distribution of an annual directory of evangelists, an operation which has been a "financial ball and chain" for the evangelists' conference for several years, Scarborough said.

Deadline for receipt of entries for the directory is Nov. 15. Evangelists should contact their state evangelism director for forms if they have not been received.

(Patti Stephenson writes for The Home Mission Board.)

## SBC Cooperative Program gifts rise above \$8 million in August

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Contributions to the national Cooperative Program from the 34 Southern Baptist state conventions were \$8,368,901 in August.

The amount was 8.18 percent above the August 1982 figure and leaves the yearly total at \$93,305,266—9.07 ahead of the 1982-83 pace. With one month remaining in the SBC fiscal year the \$100 million basic operating budget for the national mission and education programs seems assured of being reached. However, the \$6 million challenge budget will not be fully funded.

Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi continued to be Southern Baptist Convention leaders in both dollar amount given and percentage increase over last year.

After 11 months, Florida is third in both percentage increase (25.74) and total contributions (\$7,472,813). Georgia

## Reagan pushes parochial, school prayer amendment

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)—President Reagan continued his efforts for tuition tax credits and a constitutional amendment to allow oral group prayer in public schools in a speech at the University of South Carolina.

Reagan restated his support for tuition tax credits and school prayer as part of the administration's prescription for restoring excellence in American education. Overall, Reagan charged, "American schools have been failing to do the job they should."

The federal government can help restore educational excellence, Reagan contended, "without recycling still more tax dollars or imposing still more regulations." One way to do that, Reagan said, is "by encouraging parental choice and competition, and that's exactly what we want to do through our programs of tuition tax credits and vouchers. Parents should have the right to choose the schools they know would be best for their children."

Reagan promoted his proposed constitutional amendment to permit

state-sponsored oral prayer in public schools as another part of his plan to restore educational excellence, saying it was an "idea which may be laughed and sneered at in some supposedly sophisticated circles, but I just have to believe that the loving God who has blessed this land and thus made us a good and caring people should never have been expelled from America's classrooms."

"It's time to welcome him back," Reagan continued, "because whenever we've opened ourselves and trusted in him, we've gained not only moral courage, but intellectual strength."

In his speech, Reagan also called for merit pay for teachers and less federal control of the educational process.

Reagan's tuition tax credit and school prayer proposals have cleared Senate committees and await floor action.

(Chesser writes for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.)

## ACTS wins in first round of FCC low-power lottery

WASHINGTON (BP)—The American Christian Television System (ACTS) came up a winner in the first government lottery to award low-power television channels Sept. 29 and was given permission to build a low-power station on channel 60 in Brownwood, Tex.

ACTS was randomly chosen over five other applicants for the Brownwood station in a lottery held at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Washington. The lottery procedure was adopted by the FCC earlier this year to speed up licensing of channels for which two or more applicants filed. A total of 22 channels were awarded Sept. 29.

Brownwood was the only ACTS ap-

plication involved in the first-day lottery, which applied only to a group of the oldest and most rural applications. Brownwood, a city of 19,000, has no other TV station.

ACTS has applied for 131 low-power TV stations in 35 states. The network will begin next May delivering family entertainment, inspirational and informational programs daily to cable television systems and TV stations nationwide. The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission is developing the network and programming.

Monthly lotteries are planned.

## Protestants criticize

(Continued from page 1)  
Evangelicals; W. Melvin Adams, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State; Bert B. Beach, director of the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and James A. Hamilton, director of the Washington office of the National Council of Churches.

During its Oct. 3 meeting, the Baptist Joint Committee's executive committee instructed its Washington staff to oppose funding for the diplomatic mission and to engage in a major study of pending proposals at the state level for tuition tax deductions, credits, and vouchers.

(Hastey writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.)

## Mississippi Baptist Activities

Oct. 17 Adventures in Sunday School Growth; FBC, Hattiesburg; 7-9:30 p.m. (SS)  
Oct. 21-22 Church Media Library Workshop; Harrisburg BC, Tupelo; Noon, 21st-noon, 22nd (SS)



RA day at MC

Pictured is a group of Royal Ambassadors from First Church, Taylorsville, at RA Day on the Mississippi College campus. A total of 1,213 RAs, including Pioneers and Crusaders, registered for the annual event which is sponsored by the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. There were 88 churches and 45 associations represented. Parkway Church, Natchez, had the largest group with 35; Tylertown Church had 33; and First Church, Crystal Springs, had 31. David Myers of the Hinds Madison Association was guest speaker.

## Women deacons ordained by Oklahoma City, First

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (BP)—A "larger than usual" crowd was on hand at First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City Sept. 25 for the ordination of six deacons—three of them women.

Edna Dunn, Kathleen Nash, and Sherry Lawson were elected Aug. 21 when the church elected 18 deacons from a list of 48 persons which included seven women. A fourth woman was elected but declined to serve. Twelve of those elected had been ordained previously.

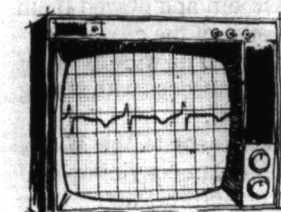
The Sunday evening service concluded a process that began in March of 1981 when a committee was named to study the role of women in the church. After two years of study the group reported it found nothing in the New Testament to prevent women from becoming deacons and recommended changing the church's bylaws

to allow women deacons. That recommendation passed, 232-167, last January.

All six of the candidates for ordination met with a 35-member ordination council for questioning Sunday afternoon. The all-male council elected Pastor Gene Garrison as moderator, then asked each candidate a single set of questions over Baptist doctrinal beliefs such as baptism, grace, and salvation, a deacon spokesman said.

The candidates were presented to the church in the evening service where each stood in the pulpit and gave a testimony. Garrison's charge to the deacons consisted entirely of reading scriptures dealing with how deacons should act.

Votes by the Capital Baptist Association have expressed strong opposition to the ordination of women as deacons.



## Intensive care

Dedicated to strengthening families  
Directed by a team of family life specialists

Intensive Care, the weekly question and answer series that runs in the Baptist Record, has been temporarily interrupted in order for the counselor to take a vacation. It will not be presented during October but will return in November. Readers who have questions to be submitted are urged to continue to send them in, and they will be dealt with as soon as possible when the series begins again. Inquiries should be sent to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205—Editor.

## Format experiment continues

The next issue of the Baptist Record, dated Oct. 20, will be the second issue in 1983 in tabloid format. The format change is an experiment to determine a better way of presenting Baptist news to Missisippians.

The first issue in tabloid format was dated Aug. 25. Reaction was favorable, according to Editor Don McGregor.

In tabloid format, the Baptist Record will have pages half their present size, but there will be twice as many pages. "This should make the paper look nicer and increase ease of handling," said McGregor.

## Christmas a folk festival?

(Continued from page 1)  
Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses v. City of Lakewood, Ohio).

A Cuyahoga County, Ohio, court that ordered an independent Baptist congregation to defend itself in court for alleged building and fire code violations was also upheld when the justices declined to review the lower panel's findings (82-44, Solon Baptist Temple v. City of Solon).

In another action, the court led stand a New York state panel that ordered a divorced man to appear before a ribbinical tribunal. The man's former wife seeks a religious, as well as civil, divorce (82-1854, Avitzur v. Avitzur).

And finally, the justices turned aside an appeal from the Church of Christ of Collinsville, Okla. that it should not have to go to court in a damage suit brought by a former member who was dismissed for fornication (82-1950, Church of Christ of Collinsville, Okla. v. Graham).

(Hastey writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.)

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Perkinston Church held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new educational building on Sept. 11. The 40-x-80 foot two-story building will house Sunday school classrooms, church office, and pastor's office. It also has a large banquet room and a kitchen.

The building committee broke the ground. George Cruthird, chairman of deacons spoke briefly about the church's history and growth. Don Stewart, executive vice president, New Orleans Seminary and a former pastor of Perkinston pictured at far right with building committee members, gave the prayer of dedication. The building should be completed by February, 1984.



BEREA CHURCH, DUNDEE, held groundbreaking services Sept. 18 to build an addition to the church for Sunday School rooms and fellowship hall. Sam Parks, pastor, says the church plans to do all the work themselves on Saturdays and welcomes any volunteer labor. The church recently installed a new baptistry and a dedication service will be announced later.



## Fellowship organized for urban work

By Norman Jameson

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Declaring they will "challenge the dry eyes that cannot weep for a lost world," Dale Cross and the Home Mission Board, have established the first Urban Evangelism Fellowship.

The organizational dinner, at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Sept. 22, melded about 40 students and faculty members, committed to Christian work in major cities but often unknown to each other, into a friendship group with common goals.

Cross, director of metropolitan evangelism strategy for the board, plans similar fellowships at the other five Baptist seminaries. He will hold an organizational meeting at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., Nov. 17.

"This is a fellowship of concern about urban America," Cross told the group. "We want to develop a network, a relatedness, and connectedness with each other to support and to help each other resist the call of culture that says 'Let's get away from all this.'"

"The cultural call of success makes us hesitate to invest in the tough places. But we won't have the strength, the guts, the courage to be what God wants us to be any place if we avoid the tough places."

America's 50 largest metropolitan areas contain all six Southern Baptist seminaries and 102 million people, according to 1980 census statistics, from New York's 9.1 million, to Albany-Schenectady-Troy's 795,000.

Golden Gate Seminary in San Francisco-Oakland is in the sixth largest metro area; Southwestern, in Dallas-Fort Worth, eighth; Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, 29th; New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans, 33rd; Southern, 43rd; and Southeastern Seminary in Greensboro-Winston Salem-High Point, N.C., 48th.

(Jameson writes for Southwestern Seminary.)

## Turrentine is editor of Accent

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Jan Turrentine is the new editor of Accent magazine at Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist Convention, here.

Accent is the magazine for Acteens, the WMU missions education organization for teenage girls. It has a circulation of more than 1.5 million.

Turrentine comes to WMU from the First Baptist Church of Jonesboro, La., where she was minister of education. She is a 1981 graduate of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

## At 103, he still goes to church!

R. H. Whatley will be 103 years old on Oct. 16; a churchwide fellowship will be held after the Sunday night service that date at Bowmar Avenue Church, Vicksburg, where Whatley is a member and seldom misses a service.

Fred E. Robertson, pastor, said that the public is invited to the celebration.



Whatley



The GA's from First Church, Tupelo, held their recognition service Sept. 18, using an international theme. Front row: Elizabeth Bowlin, Allyson Whitley, Molly Robinson, Amanda Bethay. Second row: Ashley Wallace, Sharon Rice, Cindy Sappington, Allison Newman, Allison Wallace. Third row: Roseanne Rice, Angie Turner, Tina Dillon. Linda Whitley is WMU director.



BLTYHE CREEK CHURCH, CHOCTAW COUNTY, recently licensed Steve Rigan to preach. Steve, left, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Rigan of Mathiston. Dan Wright, right, pastor, Blythe Creek Church, presented the certificate of license.



On Sunday, Sept. 25, the Adult Choir led in a surprise honoring of Van Winkle Church's (Jackson) organist, Mrs. Nelda May. Mrs. May recently celebrated her 23rd year as Van Winkle's organist. Pictured with Mrs. May is Lee Gordon, minister of music, and John G. Brock, pastor.

## First, Quitman is celebrating 140th year

First Church, Quitman, is celebrating its 140th anniversary during October. Special services will include a multi-media presentation of the church's history, a testimony service of the greatness of God, a visit by a former pastor, N. F. Greer, and a former minister of music, Bobby Magee.

On Oct. 30, homecoming day, the activities will include dinner on the grounds. All members who joined First Baptist 50 or more years ago will be recognized. Rex Yancey, pastor, will preach at the morning service. An afternoon concert by Bobby Magee will conclude the celebration, according to Wayne Baggett, minister of music and youth.

## Revival Dates

Carey Chapel Church, Red Banks: Oct. 16-21; at 7:30 nightly; Ras Robinson, evangelist and conference speaker, preaching; (he is president of Fullness House, Inc. and formerly was with Broadman Press in Nashville); Ken Bradley, pastor.

Star Church, Star: Oct. 16-21; Billy Joe Pierce, pastor, Cypress Church, Benton, La., evangelist; Don and Sarah Odum, First Church, Houston, Miss., music evangelism team; services at 7 p.m. Sun.; 7:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; a luncheon for the senior citizens of the community to be held Wed., Oct. 19, with a devotional time led by the revival team; special emphasis each night; Clifton Perkins, interim pastor.

Cliff Temple Church, Natchez (Adams): Oct. 23-28; Wilson Winstead, evangelist; music evangelist, Cecil Harper from Jackson; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 10:30 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.; W. G. Dowdy, pastor.

Mount Horeb (Lauderdale): Oct. 16-21; at 7 each night; guest speaker, James Lewis, minister of youth at Tate Street, Corinth; leading the singing, Paul Bird, Westwood, Meridian.

Tocowa, Panola: Oct. 16-21; services Sunday at 11 and nightly at 7; Tommy Mitchell, pastor of Liberty Hill, evangelist; music directed by Don Brummet of North Batesville Church; Jimmy Anthony, pastor.

Lakeview Church, Leland, Oct. 16-21; Andre Dobson, pastor of Blackwater Church, Daleville, evangelist; Bobby Shurden, music evangelist of Drew, music director; Paul Blanchard, pastor; services at 7 p.m.

## Homecomings

Sandersville (Jones): homecoming, Oct. 23; Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, to speak at the 11 a.m. worship service; dinner on the ground; Bruce G. Jolly, pastor.

DeLay Church (Lafayette): homecoming; 39th anniversary of the church; Oct. 30; Roy Wilson, former pastor of the church, to preach at 11 a.m.; other former pastors to preach at 1:30 p.m. session; special music planned; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; morning worship at 11; lunch at church; Anton Uth, pastor.

First, Pearl: homecoming; 30th anniversary; Oct. 23; morning worship at 11; Clifton Perkins, speaker; dinner on the grounds; gospel music and note burning to be part of the activities; no evening service; Stanley B. Barnett, pastor.

Beulah Church, Myrtle: homecoming; Oct. 16; morning worship at 10:30 lunch at church; singing at 1:30 p.m.; Tommy Snyder, pastor.

Trinity, Laurel: Oct. 16; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; former pastor, Wayne Frederick, missionary to Guadeloupe, to speak at 11 a.m. service; covered dish dinner; special music at 1:30 p.m.; Artis Brewer, former pastor, to speak at afternoon service.

Jayess Church (Lawrence): homecoming; Oct. 16; Tim Rayborn, pastor of Monticello Church, Lawrence County, speaker; Gilbert Allan, pastor; Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; morning worship at 11; lunch at the church; afternoon singing.

Harrisville Church (Simpson): homecoming; Oct. 16; D. J. Benson, former pastor, guest speaker; lunch; afternoon singing with the Dear Family; Gene Erwin, pastor.

Antioch (Neshoba): Oct. 23; Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., followed by morning worship with Preston Miles, interim pastor with message; dinner on the ground at noon; J. L. Morgan will deliver a 1:30 p.m. message followed by music and congregational singing.

Mt. Pisgah, Enid: Oct. 16; service at 11 with H. L. Barnes of Pontotoc County and a former pastor, with message; Dorothy Gowen of Enid will lead music; pot luck lunch follows.

First, Runnelstown: Oct. 23; B. A. Conway of Durant, guest speaker; lunch at noon; afternoon service at 1:30 will include messages by former members; Troy Sumrall, interim pastor.

Gooden Lake, Belzoni: Oct. 16; Billy Burge, pastor, will bring morning message; lunch at noon with special music by the Pilgrim's Quartet of Amory following.

North Calvary, Philadelphia (Neshoba): homecoming was held Oct. 9; lunch was served at the church; Jimmy Porter of First Church, Louisville, preached at 2 p.m., also special music in afternoon; Eddie Ruddick, interim pastor.

Friendship Church, Aberdeen: Oct. 16; homecoming; Charles Ransier will bring morning message; dinner on the grounds; afternoon service at 1:30, special music by the Pace Family; O. E. Langner, pastor.

## Missionary News

Dan and Libby Panter, missionaries to Togo since 1976, resigned from missionary service Sept. 30. Most recently they served in Lome, Togo, where he was a general evangelist and she was a church and home worker. He was born in Pascagoula. She is from Jackson. They may be addressed at Roseland Baptist Church, Box 217, Roseland, La. 70456.

Joe and Beverly Tarpley, missionaries to Nigeria since 1981, resigned from missionary service Sept. 30. They served as house parents in the dormitory for missionary children in Jos, Nigeria. They may be addressed at 100 Willow Ct., Madison, Miss. 39110.

Jake O. Thurman, father of Thomas E. Thurman, missionary to Bangladesh, died Sept. 25 in Monticello, Miss. Thurman is in the States and may be addressed at 416 Ford, Columbia, Miss. 39429. He is a native of Monticello, and his wife is the former Gloria Philpot of McWilliams, Ala.

Steve Quinn has resigned Good Hope Church, Winston County, as minister of music to take the same position at Evergreen Church, also in Winston County.



Powell

Danny Powell became pastor of Meadowood Church, Amory, four months ago. He came from New Hope Church, Ellisville. Since his coming to Meadowood, 60 have been added to the membership, 27 by profession of faith and baptism. Also, a new Church Training record of 135 was set; the old was 120.

Marvin Ward is the new pastor of Cairo Church, Pontotoc County. He was ordained Sept. 25, and he and his family have moved into the remodeled parlor.

J. C. Prather has been called as pastor of the Shurgis Church, Oktibbeha Association. He goes there from a church staff position in Carthage.

Time is fleeting. Only yesterday, today was tomorrow.

## Poplar Springs honors oldest member, age 105

Poplar Springs Church, Newton County, recently paid tribute to Mrs. Callie Gary Harrison, age 105, its oldest living member.



Mrs. Harrison made a profession of faith in Christ at Poplar Springs Church in August, 1893, and for over 90 years has held membership in that church.

As long as she was physically able, she attended church services regularly, and lived alone in her own home until her 100th birthday. Her husband, Sim Harrison, died in 1948 and her son, Lonnie L. Harrison, died Oct. 17, 1975.

For several years she has lived in the Conva-Rest Home, Newton. Her pastor, Willie C. Brown, said, "She still has a good memory and continues to be interested in church and community affairs. She is loved and respected by a host of friends and relatives."

She was born in the Poplar Springs community Nov. 29, 1877, second in a family of eleven children. Widely known as Aunt Callie, she is the only survivor of her father's family. Except

## Names in the News

Cheryl Prewitt Blackwood, Ackerman native and Miss America of 1980, will be presented in concert at Parkway Church, Jackson, Thursday, Oct. 13, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$5 at the door.

Old Mt. Pisgah Church, Choctaw County, recently licensed Danny Colium to preach. Old Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church does not have a pastor at this time. J. B. Ellison is interim pastor.

Ruhama Church, Noxubee County, Robert Moore, pastor, recently licensed Jack R. Gazaway to the gospel ministry. He said, "I want to serve God and Southern Baptists." He and his wife, Polly, live near Brooksville. As a revival evangelist or supply preacher, he may be reached at Rt. 1, Box 137, Brooksville, Miss. 39739 (phone 738-4720).

Friendship Church, Pontotoc County, honored Mrs. E. E. (Etta) Tutor Sept. 18, recognizing her 48 years of teaching children in Sunday School. Her pupils have included her own children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who along with seven great-great-grandchildren attended the special recognition service. This service consisted of her favorite hymns and Scriptures, prayer, a devotion, and testimonies by her former pupils. Mrs. Tutor was presented a plaque of appreciation.

Curry Falgout was ordained Sept. 25 as a deacon, by First Church, Lauderdale, in Lauderdale County, Bobby Cassey, pastor.

## Second Avenue marks 75th year

Second Avenue Church, celebrated its Diamond Jubilee, 75th Anniversary, on Oct. 9. Events leading to homecoming day included revival, beginning Oct. 2, with the following ministers: W. Levon Moore on Sunday; Joel C. Murphy, Oct. 3; Tom F. Rayburn, Oct. 4; and Nonnie Jefcoat, Oct. 5.

A former minister of music, Eugene Price, was present on Sunday to lead the singing. The pastor, Jerry Oswalt, preached the homecoming sermon. Special music was rendered by former staff members and members. A brief history of the church was read. "Dinner was served on the ground."

Thirty-Eighth Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, has called Tom Hilyer as minister of education and youth. He

was born in Siluria, Ala. and grew up in Opelika. He attended Clarke College, and was graduated from Mobile College. He received a master of religious education degree from

New Orleans Seminary in 1961. He has served as youth director in Magnolia Springs Church, Newton; as minister to the deaf in Spring Hill Church, Mobile; and as a volunteer missionary teacher in Jativa, Spain. He has been involved in BSU summer missionary work in inner city Chicago and as a student missionary in Uganda, Africa.

The best way to keep from stepping on other people's toes is to put yourself in their shoes.

Middle-aged married men don't have as many auto accidents as young single men, because they don't get the car often enough.

## Church honors instrumentalists

Sept. 18, was "Pianist and Organist Appreciation Day" at Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel, honoring Mrs. Rhonda Brooks, pianist, and Mrs. Kathy Holifield, organist. These two combined have been given the church 24 years of music, without monetary reimbursement.

The church family wrote letters of love and appreciation to each of them and these were placed in a scrapbook and presented to each one during the morning worship service, along with a monetary gift.

Mrs. Brooks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aldean Landrum of Ovett, is married to Sammy Brooks; they have one son, Nathan.

Mrs. Holifield is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Ethridge of Sandersville. Her husband is Kenneth Holifield. They have two children, Kent and Karen.

Also recognized at this time with a gift certificate were Mrs. Wanda Smith and Miss Lillian Blausner, assistant church pianists. Mrs. Brooks and Mrs. Holifield played special selections during the service. The pastor is Eddie Bryant and the music director is Mrs. Lorrie Tanner.

## Missionaries on furlough

Missionaries now on furlough in Mississippi are Gloria and Thomas Thurman, 416 Ford, Columbia 39429 (Bangladesh); Hal and Lou Ann Lee, France, 4233 Carter Circle, Jackson 39209; Jerry and Bobbye Rankin, Indonesia, Pine Trails Apt. M-5, Spring Ridge Road, Clinton 39056;

Errol and Mary Simmons, Spain, 407 N. 38th Ave., Hattiesburg 39401; Wayne and Florence Frederick, Guadeloupe, c/o Camp Creek Baptist Church, Rt. 2, Guntown, 38849; Bobby and Mary Simmons, Philippines, 715 E. Northside Drive, Jackson 39206.

## Eastabuchie celebrates centennial

Eastabuchie Church in Lebanon Association will celebrate its centennial with homecoming and revival beginning Oct. 16 through 19.

David Cranford, pastor of Southern Hills Church, Jackson, will preach the homecoming service, Oct. 16 at 11 a.m. following Sunday School at 9:45. Dinner on the ground will be at noon with singing and recognitions later of "Heritage Club" members.

Revival services will be at 7 p.m. nightly with Allen Steelman of Memphis, as evangelist. Don Burch will be music director. Joe H. Royalty is pastor.

## \$1 million for HSU

ABILENE, Texas (BP)—A California educator and his wife, the A. H. (Aaron) Bergens, have established a \$1 million trust for scholarships at Hardin-Simmons University.

The charitable remainder unitrust has been placed with the Baptist Foundation of Texas in Dallas to benefit the Texas Baptist school in Abilene, Texas.





FOUR MILE CREEK CHURCH, JACKSON COUNTY, presented evangelist Troy Smith the keys to a new Chevrolet Caprice Classic, which the church had bought for him.

Smith had been in Oregon for five years before going into evangelism. He and Bradford, his brother, worked together in Bold Missions to begin Jackson Baptist Temple, in Oregon, which began in a log cabin, but now has a new building and full-time services.

N. H. Smith, his father, served Four Mile Creek five and a half years as pastor in the 1950's and later served as interim pastor. The car was an expression of the church's love and appreciation for him.

Shown with the car are the deacons of the church. Left to right: Virgil Valentine, Jack Harrell Jr., N. H. Smith, Troy Smith, Gilbert Emerson, chairman of deacons, who presented the keys, Duayne Womble, and Percy Tillman. Kenny Goff is pastor.

Troy Smith may be reached at P. O. Box 19701, Portland, Ore., 97219 (phone 503-246-5633), for service as an evangelist.



COLD SPRINGS CHURCH, COLLINS, held a note burning ceremony on Sept. 11. Pastor Russell C. Harris, looks on as the treasurer, Jerry Miller, sets fire to the \$10,000 church note, held by trustee G. C. Rowell. The church started raising money for a new auditorium Easter Sunday, 1981. The building was completed through church labor and sub-contracting in April of 1983. At that time the church lacked \$10,000 of the \$125,500 cost of the building, which was borrowed. Now that the debt is paid, plans already have begun on renovating the old church into a larger fellowship hall and education space.



FIRST CHURCH, GAUTIER, held an Acteen and GA recognition service with the theme, "Something Beautiful." Girls in Action receiving patches were Kristi Haygood, Bonnie Barker, and Leslie Koski. Twelve Acteens were crowned as Queens. These and their escorts were Angie Price, Gil Sanderford; Gina Brooks, Mel Peterson; Sara Barker, Chuck Koski; Jamie Griffin, John Barlow; Deborah Irwin, Denny Loftus; Lisa Marks, Darin Griffin; Jennifer Foster, Jeff Allman; Laurie Gautier, Brad Foster; Ashley Sanderford, Trevor Flint; Kelli Sullivan, Galen Flint; Susan Randolph, Caleb Cochran; and Angie Curry, Matt Williams. Queen with a Scepter was Renea Stringer, escorted by George Tillman. Acteen leaders are Francelle Sanderford, Karen Gautier, and Reba Koski. GA leaders are Sharon Marks, Charlene Kilgore, Bobbi Boykin, and Gayle Strickler. Fran Barker is GA director.



PURVIS (PUG) KEENE, right, was honored recently at West End Church, Louisville, where he is a charter member and served as minister of music for the past 30 years. He was presented a plaque, at a church singing held in honor of him. He has also served as deacon, Sunday school director, and Sunday School teacher. Charles Griffin, left, pastor, made the presentation.

Good Hope Church, Rt. 1, Lena, will observe Harvest Day, Oct. 30. The goal for the day is to raise enough money to pay off the indebtedness of the church.

The morning services will be the regular time, and will be followed by lunch at the church and an afternoon service. The afternoon service will consist of singing and a message by Henry Adams, director of missions, Leake Association. Each former pastor will have time to share with the church.

Odell Tebo is the pastor.

GAs from Lincoln County met at Bethel Church recently to hear Tom and Gloria Thurman, missionaries to Bangladesh. Fifty-three girls and their leaders attended. A picnic lunch was served. Mrs. Faye Moak is associational GA director.

Calvary Church, Columbus, Lownes Association, sponsored a seminar/workshop on "The Christian Faces Child Abuse." This was offered Oct. 11, from 7 until 9:30 p.m. A panel of people who have dealt with child abuse led the discussions. They included clergymen, law enforcement officers, educators, and social workers. Mrs. Mildred Bailey, director, Reach-Out Shelter for Abused and Neglected Children; Mrs. Olean Salley, secretary-counselor, Calvary Church; and Mike Carroll, minister of youth at Calvary, were moderators. Roy Hawkins is the Calvary pastor.

A GA recognition service was held on Sept. 25 at Westwood Church, Meridian. The theme was "My Promise to God." The following GA's received badges for their achievements: Tiffany Trammell, Brandy Golisch, Jennifer Jackson, Vickie Lillis, Melissa Gray, Ginger Spruill, Susan Tucker, Jennifer Ladner. Mrs. Janet Pinkham and Mrs. Judy Fleming are the GA leaders. A reception, sponsored by the WMU in honor of the GAs, was held following the service. W. Buford Ustry is pastor.

## Bluff Springs honors two

Bluff Springs Church, Lafayette County (Camp Bluff Springs) held a special anniversary service Oct. 9 at 2 p.m., honoring W. R. Austin of Ripley and H. B. Vinson of Winona.

These two men were ordained to the gospel ministry the first Sunday in October, 1933.

# Drunk finds Christ; today a different man

By Jo Scales

EMBU, Kenya—As the village drunk, Peter Gichovi once threw a glass of beer in a Baptist missionary's face. Today, he's a pastor himself and a recent graduate of the Baptist International Theological Seminary in Arusha, Tanzania.

A few years ago Peter was of little use to his family or village in Kenya. In addition to being drunk most of the time, he was a skilled pickpocket. At his drunkenest, he was still able to accumulate enough money to finance his drinking.

Missionary Jack Hull now assigned to Tanzania, visited Peter's village one day. He and two African pastors visited the shops and talked to the people on the street. An open-air worship service followed.

Peter, drunk as usual, wandered over to hear the white man preach. During the service he edged nearer and nearer the missionary. As Jack began to close his message, Peter suddenly threw the glass of beer he had been drinking toward him. The missionary wiped his face, finished his message, and soon got into the car to drive home.

Just outside of town, Jack stopped

the car on the side of the road and turned to the African pastors with him. "Brothers, let's pray for that young man and claim his soul for God." Earnestly the three prayed for Peter Gichovi.

On the next visit to the village, Jack again saw the young man in the crowd. This time Peter was almost sober. Again as Jack preached, Peter drew closer and closer. At the end of the sermon Jack asked if any would accept Christ. Peter was ready that day to become a Christian.

After his salvation Peter became a lay pastor, but he felt he needed more training. Finally he and his wife left Kenya to attend the seminary, although Peter was no longer young.

Both were earnest students and strong leaders among the student body. Other students and several teachers were impressed with the couple's abilities and basic goodness. Very few would believe that once Peter was the village nuisance, a drunk and a pickpocket.

(Jo Scales is a missionary in Embu, Kenya, where she and her husband have worked for five years.)

## Devotional

### The one who left it all

By David W. Spencer, pastor, First, Long Beach

Did you know that one of Jesus' disciples was a bureaucrat? A bureaucracy has been defined as a place where everyone rises to his own level of incompetence and stays there.



Spencer

Matthew was a bureaucrat. He collected taxes at Capernaum for the vast Roman Empire. He taxed imports, exports, boats, travelers, and people who crossed bridges. Lots of traffic passed through Capernaum so Matthew was on his way to untold wealth!

The one problem with all this was the Jewish hatred for tax collectors. Matthew was a "non-person" in Jewish society. He had sold out his people to the Romans and as a result he was ostracized, could not enter the synagogue, and could not serve as a witness. Does he sound like good material for a disciple?

I wonder if Matthew ever asked himself if he had made a good bargain for his life? What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul?

Then the day came when Jesus stopped at the tax office and it wasn't to pay taxes. He looked at Matthew and said, "Follow me." I imagine the other disciples wanted to holler, "Hold on, Jesus. You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear!" I wonder if Matthew thought, "How can you ask me to give up this lucrative position?" The fact is Matthew left it all to follow Jesus. He lost that "fat plum" of Capernaum. He burned his bridges behind him.

Matthew's account of the gospel reflects an eye for detail and a love for the teachings of Jesus. He even included a very special saying of Jesus which had great personal meaning for him: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." By the grace of God, Matthew knew that it could happen!

## Bible Book

### Minister to the Gentiles

By Harry L. Lucenay, pastor, Temple, Hattiesburg  
Ephesians 3:1-21

It is an axiom of Christian history that "God's plan is a man." God has chosen to carry out his work among men through the agency of men. It was not only necessary that the one God include the Gentiles (non-Jews) in his one way of redemption, it was also necessary for him to establish a means of revealing that redemption to them. In Ephesians 3:1-13, Paul discusses this fact and the fact that he himself was the instrument chosen of God to make known that revelation of the Gentile world. Then in Ephesians 3:14-21, Paul prays for those who have come into God's family.

**The purpose of Paul's ministry (Ephesians 3:1-13)**—Paul accepts the spiritual role God has given him in the drama of God's universal purpose. The fact that he sees himself as a prisoner for Christ Jesus is not a piece of self-advertisement but a reminder to his readers of his credentials as apostle. His suffering allowed him to speak out of the "blood-and-guts" context of laying his life on the line for what he believed. Yet he saw himself, not as a victim of his enemies, but as a prisoner of Christ Jesus.

The mystery is the inclusion of the Gentiles in a church wherein all barriers of race and culture are broken down. God made the mystery known through revelation. Paul saw revelation coming in two ways. First, revelation came by prophetic inspiration—God breaks into men's lives and speaks to them in a direct way. Second, revelation came through Scripture. Both forms of revelation will be mutually supportive. Neither will contradict the other. The beautiful truth is that the Gentiles are now co-heirs, conpartakers, co-partakers of the promise.

Paul next deals with how he fulfilled his purpose. He saw himself as a "minister," a servant, one who serves in the interest of or benefit of another (the word from which "deacon" comes). God has given Paul new energy to work and added a dynamic power to his strength. Therefore he says the mighty resurrection power of Christ is available to God's people for daily life and service.

The text underscores the fact that Christ has triumphed over all powers, heavenly and earthly. No hostile forces are strong enough to hinder one soul's ascent to God when that person is accompanied and championed by Christ. It is also noted that no evil force can separate the church from God the

Father.

**The prayer of Paul's ministry (Ephesians 3:14-21)**—This prayer focuses on the spiritual condition of the inner man. The fact that Paul bowed his knees underscores the urgency of the prayer. He prays that the inner man might have spiritual strength, which will, in turn, lead to a deeper experience with the indwelling Christ. Man can never strain the resources of God. God does not give grudgingly nor in meager portions. God gives according to the measure of his infinite fullness. Paul calls on this treasury to strengthen the inner man. Graham Scroggie explains that Christ's "presence in us has its degrees and advances, its less and more, its outer and inner. A life may be truly Christian and yet far from fully Christian. It is this which distinguishes one Christian from another . . . In some, Christ is just present, in others, he is prominent, and in others again, he is pre-eminent."

The benefits which follow the fulfillment of the first petition are clear. Since love is both the soil in which the plant thrives and the firm ground on which the building stands, it is Paul's prayer that the Christian be "rooted (securely settled) and grounded (deeply founded) in love" (v. 17). He sincerely wants these believers to apprehend and know the complete love of Christ and discover the infinite variety of God's purpose. This love is far beyond the natural limits of intellect or theory. This is experiential knowing, intuitive, and practical. As men are strengthened by the Spirit, conscious of the indwelling Christ, and strong to grasp the meaning of the love of Christ, they shall experience the fullness of God. This means that men shall come to experience fully all of God's purpose for them in bringing them to redemption from sin with the fullness of God. The means of this fullness is the Holy Spirit and the measure of fullness is seen in Christ.

The doxology for the prayer celebrates the church's confidence that God is both able and willing to do all that Paul's prayer asks for. Every word is carefully chosen to emphasize the vastness of God's power as found in Christ Jesus. It is his belief that God's intention is to exceed by his answer even the far reaching petitions of his prayer and the aspirations that have prompted them. Martin Luther offered the dictum that man prays for silver, and God gives gold.

## Uniform

### The means: God's Son

By Clarence H. Cutrell, Jackson  
Romans 3:21-26; 5:6-11; Colossians 1:13-14

In this unit of study the theme is, "God Redeems His People." We have looked at the problem, man's sin; the motive, God's love; and in this lesson the thought centers around the means that God used to effect man's redemption. This means was Jesus Christ, God's Son. It should be remembered that redemption must be viewed from God's perspective, not man's. The law makes man aware of his need to be saved, but it has never been able to accomplish this. This leaves sinful man helpless before God. What must be done before man can be redeemed?

**1. Expiation required (Rom. 3:21-26).** There are many commentators who view this passage as the key to the book of Romans and most seem to be agreed that it contains some difficult thoughts. It teaches us that, when God determined to bring about man's salvation, he was confronted with two basic problems: man's sin and his own righteousness.

In verse 21, Paul leads us in his thinking from the period of law into the time when the grace of God appeared. "The righteousness of God without the law (apart from the law, NIV) has been made known." God is here revealing the first step in the solution to the dual problem. "This righteousness from God" (NIV) is for man "through faith in Jesus." In his Son, God provides freely a righteous standing before him which man through the works of the law could never achieve.

In verse 24, we find the word "justified" which is a legal term and has to do with a court of law in which an accused person is declared by the judge to be innocent. A better translation perhaps, based on the root meaning of the Greek word, is "made righteous." God does not simply declare man righteous, he makes him so. The believer is created anew in Christ Jesus, giving him a new heart and a new nature. None of this is in violation of man's free will, but in response to his new-found faith in God.

In verse 25, another word needs our consideration. In KJV it is translated "propitiation." But the pagan meaning of propitiation is to appease an offended God and cause him to look with

The summary secret of confidence is that God is at work in the church in which his fullness dwells by the presence of Christ and the Spirit. It is because of this indwelling and empowering presence that glory can be offered to God eternally.

favor upon the suppliant. The New International Version translates this word with a phrase "sacrifice of atonement," which provides a better insight into its meaning.

Thus when man stood helplessly condemned in his sins, God took the initiative and worked a work of surpassing grace which satisfied his own righteous nature by making the sinner a new man in Christ Jesus. So God is the righteous one and the one who makes (not just declares) the sinner righteous in his Son, so that he is "just and the one who justifies."

**2. Enemies reconciled (Rom. 5:8-11).** The term "enemies" in verse 10 is plural, not because it refers to man on one side and God on the other, enemies with one another, but because on one hand all men in their rebellious state are enemies against a loving God who does not "desire that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9). In Roman's 5:9, both RSV and NIV translate "God's wrath," but in the original Greek the word for God does not occur. KJV appears to be more correct with "we shall be saved from wrath." In Eph. 2:3, both KJV and NIV state that "we were by nature children (or objects) of wrath." Again in Ephesians Paul, referring to Jew and Gentile, says in 2:16, "and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross by which he put to death their hostility" (NIV). So man must be reconciled to God and man to fellow man, but God does not need to be reconciled to man. "For Paul, it is always persons who are reconciled to God, never God to persons, because it was persons who sinned." Harold Songer, Review and Expositor, Vol. LXXIII, No. 4, p. 422.

**3. Endurance realized (Col. 1:11-14).** Some professed Christians seem to have begun and concluded their religious experience with their profession of faith. It is as if all they wanted from God was an escape from hell and an assurance that at death they would go to heaven. But these verses in Colossians teach us that the redemption which we have in Christ relates to the rest of our life here as well as hereafter.

Through the life which we have in Christ we receive strength and power to live the Christian life with endurance, patience, and joy. And this we receive in the same way as salvation—by trusting in God who has transferred us from the rule of darkness into the rule of his dear Son.

## Life and Work

### Comforter for the troubled

By Larry W. Fields, pastor, Harrisburg, Tupelo  
I Samuel 16:14-23

None of us are exempt from troubled times. All people, even Christians, face sorrow and suffering. The big difference is that Christians have the assurance of God's presence and power through all the difficulties.

Church members should be sensitive to hurt and troubled hearts. Alexander Nowell has said, "God doesn't comfort us to make us comfortable but to make comforters."

David serves as a good example as he sought to bring peace to a troubled heart. In I Samuel 15:26, we learn that Saul is rejected as king because of disobedience. In I Samuel 16:13, David is anointed as the new king even though he would not serve for many years. There was a steady decline in the spiritual and physical strength of Saul following these events. It is commendable that David, fully aware of the circumstances of his new role, would seek to comfort and soothe Saul's wounded spirit. David had the spirit of a servant that enabled him to minister to another human being in the service of his Lord.

#### I. The confused king (I Samuel 16:14)

Saul was a tormented and troubled man. He was spiritually and emotionally disturbed, which led to periods of depression. He had been anointed king and the Holy Spirit empowered him to fulfill his role. Yet by his rebellious nature and rejection of the Spirit's guidance, he was rejected by God and the Holy Spirit departed from him.

Some readers have had difficulty interpreting "an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him." One thing to remember is that the writer of I Samuel wrote in the context of his day and time. He could not conceive of anything happening outside of God's control. However, the overall biblical teaching shows that God permits Satan to do things which God does not do. (Job 1-2)

We have a free will and conscience. We are responsible for our actions. God permits things which he neither wills nor causes. Therefore, when God withdrew the Holy Spirit from Saul, the devil moved in through his evil spirit. When, like Saul, we reject God's will, we open the door for evil to come in.

There are many people physically ill today whose illness has a mental and spiritual origin. We are called to bring them a message of comfort, hope, and love.

#### II. The concerned friends (I Samuel 16:15-19)

His attendants, the respected members of his court, were deeply concerned about Saul's constant melancholia. They cared enough to risk his potential anger and possible retribution by suggesting help. The problem was beyond their limited abilities.

It is important for us to realize that if we are unable to help a person, we should seek assistance from those who are trained and skilled to do so. Sunday School teachers and pastors are called on for counseling. Many times this is sufficient, but when deep, complex problems are involved, a Christian physician or psychologist may be necessary.

Saul's men sought a harp player in hope that the music would help calm his troubled spirit. Saul agreed to this help. David is mentioned as an excellent lyre player, a brave, courageous soldier, an able speaker, a person of good appearance, and a man of God. Saul is impressed and he sends a message to Jesse, David's father, asking that his son might come. As king, he had the right to draft David.

#### III. The comforting David (I Samuel 16:20-23)

Jesse sent David to Saul and included gifts for the king. David shows him humility in this sequence. He is prepared to serve God and king. David, although knowing that he will one day reign, does not try to overthrow the king or act arrogant. Saul grew to love the lad and gave him the position of armor bearer (personal servant). David used his harp to comfort the troubled king. Saul was able to concentrate on the music and forget about his loneliness, rejection and failure. As a result, Saul requested that Jesse allow David to remain with him. Jesse, aware of David's anointing as the new king, could obviously see God's hand in these events.

David's example shows the importance of God's people seeking to comfort others. We can provide the needed gifts of kind words, gentle support, and assistance in everyday tasks. All of us are capable of this kind of support. The problem is not in our ability but the fact that generally we do not care enough to discover the troubled people. We should pray that the Lord will make us more sensitive to the needs of others. Then, with his help, we will be able to comfort them with the comfort with which we have been comforted.